New York State Integrated Pest Management Program

Annual Report to the
New York State Integrated Pest Management Program
December, 1997

Title: Assessing and Augmenting Biological Control of Tarnished Plant Bug in New York Strawberries

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Overview

The goal of this project is to evaluate the potential for encouraging long term, stable biological control interactions between the tarnished plant bug, *Lygus lineolaris* and an introduced parasitoid wasp, *Peristenus digoneutis*. We are investigating biological control of the tarnished plant bug in strawberry. Tarnished plant bug can cause up to 70% damage of a strawberry crop, principally in the form of a "cat-facing" deformation of the fruit. Damage is especially severe in day-neutral varieties, and is one of the factors which can make day-neutral cultivation difficult. Economic thresholds exist for chemical control of tarnished plant bug (Bostanian 1990), but need exists for research on biological control of this pest in strawberry production (Kovach et al. 1993). Because tarnished plant bug is an important insect pest on many different fruits and vegetables in addition to strawberry, research to promote its natural enemies may have broad implications for several New York crops.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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